

Parental Involvement: Plan Now To Get Involved Next School

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Congratulation Parents! Congratulations Students!

Ten months of school has certainly unveiled quite a bit for our children. Anticipation heightens as students prepare for school year closure, while daily temperatures soar well over the 100 degree mark. Teachers exhale as a sigh of relief, while sorting through the many reminders of “No Child Left Behind”. Administrators and school principals finalize teacher contracts, discipline referrals and community concerns and place in file cabinets, already full.

Electronic transmissions and report cards to parents indicate school progress and completion. Promotion ceremonies and high school graduations will mark the beginning of a new future and a world of promise for many students.

In our garden of education, students have the opportunity to pick the sprouts of new technology and curriculum that match high stakes test.

However, what continues to be lacking in many of our schools are basic and fair principals of Classroom Management and Discipline. All teachers may not have the techniques and the skills which would allow them to control students effectively in order to create a positive learning

environment. Enforcing classroom rules that facilitate learning and minimize disruption is equally challenging. When the two are merged successfully students are given a premier opportunity to engage in learning. Most parents want their children to attend safe, orderly, well-managed schools that also practice fair discipline policies. We must remember that our children are students. Children are entitled to compassion, sympathy, support and protection while they attend school. The primary reason that we send our children to school is so they can achieve the knowledge and skills that we serve them well as citizens in a democracy. We all understand the importance of getting a good education and how this helps to pave a path to fulfilling their dreams.

Parents and guardians; we must pledge to uphold the promise to raise our children at all cost. There may be times when we feel detached from our children or uninformed about school matters, curriculum updates, discipline policies and parent meetings. However when we let our defenses lapse for a moment or two, our children may become more vulnerable to inappropriate and sometimes “unfair” treatment by school personnel. Our children

must be reassured that as parents that we will be involved in their school; not waiting for unforeseen negative events to occur. We cannot expect or wait on the “good news” phone call, which does not happen often enough, nor do parents need to wait for the “bade news” phone call from school administration. Rather, why not plan to attend the next Parent Meeting or Board Meeting? These are forums that provide current information about school progress, events and celebrations and also give parents and opportunity to express concerns.

PLAN now, for next school year, to become an active parent involved in your child’s school.

Schools are a part of our community in which we live, therefore fostering positive school-community relationships is important!

This you want to consider as you become an “Involved Parent”.

- Get a visitor’s pass from the front office and walk the campus, hallways, and restrooms. (make observations)
- Visit classrooms of your child’s teachers (meeting in conference rooms does not provide a visual of the classroom)
- Meet the principal
- Become familiar with campus administrative staff, names, titles and responsibilities



By Dr. Ann A Hart

- Request to volunteer in an area (s) that you have an interest
- Observe behavior and language between students and school staff for appropriate role modeling
- Observe demeanor and attire of administrators, teachers and staff
- Most importantly—get involved and stay involved by becoming an “active participant” in your child’s education . You must make it your business to know what is going on at school.

“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be ready to take the helm”

~H. Ibsen